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FORTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TOGETHER WITH THE  
Report of the Sanitary Inspector,  
FOR THE YEAR 1946.

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FRED BRADLEY & SON LTD.  
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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley,

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1946.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.



**Medical Officer of Health, and  
Divisional School Medical Officer:**

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

---

**Consultant Obstetrician:**

C. H. WALSH, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

**Consultant Pathologist and Bacteriologist:**

J. L. DALES, M.B., CH.B., D.T.M., D.T.H.

**Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:**

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S., LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

**County Dental Surgeon:** - - T. N. ASHALL, L.D.S. (Liverpool).

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**Sanitary Inspectors:**

THOS. FRANCE (Chief).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;  
Associate Member, Institute of Sanitary Engineers;  
Meat Inspector's Certificates:—  
    Royal Sanitary Institute;  
    Liverpool University.

J. T. HAMPSON (Additional).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;  
Meat Inspector's Certificates—Liverpool University.  
Royal Sanitary Institute.

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**Health Visitors:**

Miss M. SNOWDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., CERT.R.S.I.  
Miss E. L. SMELTZER, S.R.N., S.C.M., CERT.R.S.I.  
(Resigned, March, 1947).

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**Isolation Hospital:**

Mr. and Mrs. J. DILLON, Caretakers.

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**Clerical Staff:**

Miss E. RIGBY.

# 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 2,612.21 acres.

Population (Census 1931): 21,629.

Estimated mid-1946 (Registrar General): 18,830.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931): 5,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1946 according to Rate Books: 5,443.

Rateable Value: £71,489.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £276.

Hindley is essentially an industrial area. A cotton mill, a weaving shed, a paint works and a steel scaffolding works give employment to both sexes.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate	...	175	176	351
Illegitimate	...	6	5	11
TOTAL		181	181	362

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Still Births—Legitimate	...	6	3	9
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
TOTAL		6	3	9

Death of Infants under 1 year of age:—

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate	...	14	6	20
Illegitimate	...	1	1	2
TOTAL		15	7	22

DEATHS ... 119 125 244

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1946 .....19.1

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....12.9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.....	24
No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth:	
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
From other maternal causes .....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to	
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis .....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to	
other causes .....	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	60
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	56
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	181
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....	3

TABLE 1.

**Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.**

Mean of 5 years—

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Cancer Death Rate
1941—1945	18.7	13.6	0.31	1.79
1945	18.7	13.2	0.16	1.60
1946	19.1	12.9	0.47	1.53
Increase or Decrease in 1946 on— 5 years' average 1941 — 1945	+ 0.4	—0.7	+ 0.16	—0.26
—on Previous year's average—	+ 0.4	—0.3	+ 0.31	—0.07

**Maternal Mortality Rate.**

Mean of 5 years—

	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live & Still Births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
1941—1945	4.71	4.51	57
1945	2.94	2.84	61
1946	Nil	Nil	60
Increase or Decrease in 1946 on— 5 years' average 1941 — 1945	—4.71	—4.51	+ 3
—on Previous year's average—	—2.94	—2.84	—1



Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

T A B L E   I I .  
ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total at all periods up to 1 yr.	Under 1 mth.	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Premature Birth .....	7	7	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	6	1	3	—	2	—
Gastro Enteritis .....	2	—	1	1	—	—
Inanition at Birth .....	1	1	—	—	—	—
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	1	—
Congenital Stenosis of Ileum .....	1	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Convulsions .....	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	1	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1946, as compared with the previous year.

T A B L E   I I I .

Cause of Death.					No. of Deaths 1946	No. of Deaths 1945
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	5	3
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	9	3
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cancer	...	...	...	...	29	29
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	56	59
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	17

T A B L E I I I (continued).

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths.	
	1946	1945
Pneumonia ... ..	13	12
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—
Other Diseases of Parturition ... ..	—	1
Suicide .. ...	—	—
Accidents ... ..	4	10
Other Diseases ... ..	106	97
	<hr/> 244	<hr/> 240

## 2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Laboratories of Wigan Royal Infirmary and York Place, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1946 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 65 Throat Swabs, 4 samples of Water, 30 samples of Milk, and 2 Faeces.

### AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Infectious cases were removed to Hospital in the motor ambulance of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board or the Council's own Ford ambulance during the year 1946.

During the same year Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by either the motor ambulances belonging jointly to the Urban Districts of Hindley, Ince and Abram, or by the motor ambulances belonging to the Wigan Borough Police.

The arrangements made with the neighbouring Authorities and Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the use of Infectious and Non-Infectious Ambulances, ensured that the ambulance facilities for the area were adequate.

## NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is carried out in the area by the two Nurses employed by the Hindley District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

The District Nurses do not nurse cases of infectious disease, nor do they act as midwives or maternity nurses.

The Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts for the area, is the Lancashire County Council. Three midwives are allocated to Hindley.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, White House, Liverpool Road, on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 1-45 p.m., and is conducted by Mr. C. H. Walsh, M.B., F.R.C.O.G.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

As part of the School Medical Service, Minor Ailment Clinics are held daily and Dental Clinics on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. These Clinics are held at the Central Clinic, Liverpool Road, which is combined for the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services.

Orthopaedic defects among pre-school and school children are dealt with under the Lancashire County Council Scheme. The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the first and third Mondays in each month at the School Clinic, Library Street, Wigan, and the Orthopaedic Nurse attends each Monday morning.

## HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

General Medical and Surgical:—

Ancoats Infirmary, Manchester; Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Salford Royal Infirmary; Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

Children:—Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Ancoats Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospital.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Manchester and Wigan Infirmaries.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with Leigh Joint Hospital Board.

A sum of £100 is contributed by the Hindley Urban District Council to the Manchester and Salford Charities' Fund. This sum is there apportioned to the various Hospitals in Manchester and Salford.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

### **3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

#### **WATER SUPPLY.**

The Water Supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westhoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined four times bacteriologically during the year 1946, and found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of 11 houses, containing 50 persons, in the fields, which depend on supply from standpipes.

#### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The Drainage System is of the usual type; storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.



The reconstruction of the Platt Bridge Sewage Works is in progress.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1946):

Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	33
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens				37
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	21
Number of Freshwater Closets	...	...		5700
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...		4
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	...	...		29
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	...			5680
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				5385

No conversions were made during 1946.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Privy middens and ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and three motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The Scavenging of streets is under the supervision of the Surveyor.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited ...	...	987
Number of Nuisances discovered ...		1879
Number of Nuisances abated ...		1754
Number of Informal Notices served...		92
Number of Statutory Notices served		60
Number of Legal Proceedings ...		—

## SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

## CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action has been taken with regard to smoke abatement.

During the year the Council have become a Member of the Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

## DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

9 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Killgercide Insecticide containing 5% D.D.T. This method has proved highly efficient.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Knackers Yard is kept under constant supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, and trade is carried on there without offence.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Regular visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

## SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

## 4. HOUSING.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are built in rows, and old in type.

The standard of repair has been well maintained, despite the great difficulties of shortage of labour and building materials.

The worst cases of pre-war overcrowding were relieved, but the situation is bad again, owing to servicemen's families having to live with their parents, due to an actual shortage of houses.

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	—
(i)	By the Local Authority ... ..	—
(ii)	By other Authorities ... ..	—
(iii)	By other bodies and persons ... ..	—

## (b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:

- (i) By the Local Authority ... .. —
- (ii) By other bodies and persons ... .. —

## 1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 677
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 677
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932 —
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose approx. —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. —
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 584

## REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... .. 551

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:

A —Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
  - (a) By owners ... .. —
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... .. —



## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 182
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
- (a) By owners ... .. 60
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

## C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. —

## D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. —

## 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:

- (a) Revised survey necessary to ascertain a reasonably accurate position.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. —
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. —
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... .. —

## **5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1946, 1 sample of milk was examined by the biological test for Tuberculosis and found satisfactory, 30 samples of milk were also submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of heat treated milk. 18 samples were satisfactory and 12 unsatisfactory.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district have been regularly inspected, and at all times their condition has been found satisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

There are 22 Milk Purveyors (including 17 Cowkeepers) in the district. 13 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 2 Licences in respect of the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk were granted during the year.

The approximate number of cows in the district is 300.

### **(b) MEAT.—**There are no slaughterhouses open in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

## **6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

During 1946, cases of Infectious Disease, requiring hospital treat-

ment, were removed to the Astley Sanatorium of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, by agreement.

17 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 32 in 1945, and of the 17 cases, 7 were removed to hospital for treatment.

11 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with 28 in the previous year. All 11 cases were removed to hospital for treatment, where 2 proved fatal.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Town Hall, and at the Hindley Police Station, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Contacts of cases of Diphtheria have been excluded from school, and kept under close observation.

As stated earlier in the Report, 65 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed by local Medical Practitioners at the Central Clinic. During 1946, 192 pre-school and 89 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1946.

Measles of a mild type was prevalent during the year.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

39 cases of Scabies were treated during the year, at the Cleansing Station, established at the Gas Yard.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with Lethane Oil and D.D.T. Emulsion.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1946.

T A B L E I V.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1946.

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over and	Total Deaths to Hospital to district	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belon'g to district
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	17	—	—	4	1	1	6	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	7	—
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup...	11	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	1	1	—	1	—	2	11	2
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Primary and Influenza Pneumonia	13	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	2	4	13	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	—
Measles (excluding German Measles) ...	15	2	1	2	1	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	40	1	.7	.7	6	4	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS .....	102	3	9	14	9	7	34	6	2	5	2	5	6	16	22	2

## DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1946, 78 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray or Sulphur Dioxide, and it is usual in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector at the Gas Yard, Cross Street, was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to hospital.

## CANCER.

29 deaths (11 male and 18 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 29 in 1945.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Hindley residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and Hindley cases attend at the County Dispensary in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

31 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1946, 22 being cases of Pulmonary, and 9 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 9 deaths from Pulmonary, and 1 from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE V.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	6	1	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	5	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—55	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & up- wards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	8	14	8	1	6	3	1	—
	22				9			

## 7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Mondays and Thursdays, from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

The babies are weighed, and advice is given to the mothers about themselves and their infants, by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.O.G., and is held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons at 1-45 p.m.

During 1946, 306 expectant mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 1,115 attendances.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 219 first visits, and a total number of 440 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, recommended by the Surgeon at the Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are no Maternity Homes in the district, nor is there any institutional provision for dealing with unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children within the district.

In pursuance of Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health, Hindley has joined in the Scheme of the Lancashire County Council, for the care of Illegitimate Children in the area.

Expectant and nursing mothers and premature infants can be admitted to Billinge Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and hospitals at Liverpool and Manchester. No arrangements have been made for the provision of emergency units or home helps.

In accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, dealing with the care of premature infants, all notifications of birth received indicate the birth weight of the infant, and the period of gestation.

The Health Visitors pay particular attention to all premature infants. During 1946, 18 babies weighed 5½lbs. or less at birth 11 being born at home, and 7 in hospital.



Of the 11 babies born at home, one was removed to hospital and 10 survived at the end of one month, none dying during the first 24 hours.

Of the 7 babies born in hospital, three died during the first 24 hours, and 2 survived at the end of one month.

The Nurses reported as follows on the Infant Welfare work—

Number of First Visits to new babies	...	320
Number of Supervision Visits—under one year		3018
Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years		1230
	————	4248

Number of Children who attended at the Clinic  
for the first time during the year:—

(a) Children under one year of age	...	288
(b) Children between the ages of one year and five years	... ..	15
	————	303

In accordance with the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, arrangements were made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice, and bacteriological examinations, when requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Home Visitors from the attendant Midwives. Cases requiring hospital treatment are removed to Astley Sanatorium. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

Maternal Deaths are investigated by the County Medical Officer, with the co-operation of the District Medical Officer.

Orthopaedic treatment for children under five years of age is carried out under the Lancashire County Scheme at the Wigan Clinic, in close co-operation with the similar treatment of school children under the School Medical Service. X-Ray and Sunlight cases receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while operation cases are admitted to the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitors, while cases requiring hospital treatment would be sent to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

Cases occurring during 1946 are classified as follows:—

——Ophthalmia Cases——

Number Notified at Home	Treated	Treated in Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TABLE VI.

Causes of and Ages at Death for the Year 1946.

Causes of Death.					Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.									
					Under	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to	15 to	25 to	45 to	65 to	65 and	All ages
					1 M F	M F	M F	15 M F	25 M F	45 M F	65 M F	Up. M F		M F
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
5—Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4 1	1 1	1	6	3
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
8—Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
9—Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
10—Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11—Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12—Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
13—Cancer of Bronchial Cavity and Oesophagus (M.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2
Uterus (F.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1 1	3	4	3
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1 1	3	...	5
15—Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	5
16—Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 1	2 3	5	4
17—Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
18—Intra-cranium; Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	6 5	19 17	25	24
19—Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 1	...	...	5 5	11 7	9 24	26	37
20—Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	6 5	7	6
21—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1 1	1 3	2	5
22—Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6 1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1 4	8	6
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 1	2	3
24—Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...
25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
26—Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
27—Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
28—Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1 3	4	4
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30—Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31—Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	6 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
32—Congenital; Malformation; Birth Injuries; Infantile Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33—Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34—Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	4	...
36—All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	2 1	2 2	5 7	9	14
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	15 8	2 1	2	3	2 2	13 11	34 29	50 72	119	125





# Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1946.



**To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my thirty-first Annual Report of the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1946.

Extensive Housing improvements were impeded by the general shortage of building materials and the dearth of skilled labour. The department rendered every assistance to contractors to obtain their requirements for essential repairs. In view of the difficulties the co-operation and assistance received from the respective services has been most gratifying.

## **Licensing of Building Materials and Components.**

The number of Licences issued for new buildings and repairs to existing buildings under the order totalled 316 to the estimated sum of £13,513. It was also necessary to give 191 Priority Certificates for builders to obtain certain components and materials.

**Overcrowding** is pronounced, and the demand for houses is increasing. There are over 700 applicants for Council houses on the books.

## **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

The re-organisation of the service and conversion from horse drawn to mechanical vehicles was carried out during the year. One new Commer refuse vehicle was purchased and put into service, and the Dennis highways wagon was also converted and made serviceable for refuse collection. The part of the district which for a number of years was let by contract, is now being carried out by the Local Authority. The number of tips have been considerably reduced and control instituted.

## **Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**

An adequate supply of milk is produced or brought into the district.

Retail purveyors on the register at the end of the year were—17 farmers 5 dairymen and 40 retailers of bottled milk, (13 pasteurised, 2 tuberculin tested, and 25 sterilised).

The cowsheds are well maintained, and limewashing is carried out twice per year. All have a dairy, and a fairly high standard of cleanliness is maintained. Improvements and structural alterations have been carried out as follows:—

No. 1. One new dairy was constructed.

No. 2. Sterilising plant installed.

No. 3. Plans approved for new cowshed.

Samples of milk were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act. 30 samples were taken for bacteriological examination by your officers, 18 of which were found to be satisfactory, and 12 unsatisfactory. Periodical visits were paid to farms during the process of milking and at other times. Advice was given to the farmers, and circulars issued in an effort to obtain a pure milk supply.

### **Offensive Trades.**

There is only one such business established in your area, the Knackers Yard. It is well kept and all offensive matter is quickly removed or destroyed. Rodent infestations are periodically attacked, and there are fewer pests about these premises than at any time since the works were established.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Infested buildings and dwellings numbering 9 were sprayed with Hydrogen Cyanide or Killgercide Insecticide containing 5% D.D.T.

### **Disinfection.**

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle and is renewed free in exchange for the empty bottle. During the year 848 bottles were supplied to residents, 391 at the Health Office, 278 at

your distributing station at Platt Bridge, and 179 at your Hindley Green station—87 sales and 761 re-issues.

### **Infectious Disease.**

Each house is visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given regarding isolation of the patient and care to be exercised by contacts.

Public Library books from infected premises are taken over by the Public Health Department and disinfected, before being returned to the Library for re-distribution. Books in an unserviceable condition are, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed.

All houses are disinfected after various forms of Infectious Disease including Tuberculosis, with a solution of Formalin, although Formic Vap lamps in a gaseous form and sulphur candles are used in certain cases.

The Elementary Schools are sprayed internally with a disinfectant solution during each holiday vacation—Easter, Whitsun, Summer, October and Christmas.

Schools disinfected—45.

During the year 78 houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease. 1013 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfector.

Number of articles destroyed, chiefly flock beds and mattresses, 36.

### **Provision and Replacement of Ashbins.**

Ashbins falling into disrepair, numbering 417 were renewed through the activities of the Health Department. The standard bin is in general use.

### **Meat Inspection.**

All butchers meat is controlled by the Ministry of Food. The meat supply for your district comes mainly from the Wigan Slaughter

Houses, the distribution centre for this area, local slaughter houses having been out of commission since January, 1940.

Domestic Pig Keepers are allowed to slaughter within certain limits, personally reared and fed animals, by permission of the Ministry of Food.

Pigs (killed for home consumption) inspected—18.

Two Licences to Slaughter animals were granted to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Meat ...	...	...	...	...	96 lbs.
Canned Vegetables ...	...	...	...	...	9 tins.
Tinned Milk ...	...	...	...	...	284 tins.
Tinned Soup ...	...	...	...	...	3 tins.
Jam ...	...	...	...	...	13½ lbs.
Tinned Fruit ..	...	...	...	...	13½ lbs.
Tinned Puddings ...	...	...	...	...	2 tins.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	23 tins.
Dessert Moulds	...	...	...	...	13 pkts.
Semolina ...	...	...	...	...	26 pkts.
Biscuits ...	...	...	...	...	22 lbs.
Bacon ...	...	...	...	...	18¾ lbs.
Mincemeat ...	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Butter ...	...	...	...	...	3½ lbs.
Kippers ...	...	...	...	...	139 lbs.
Fish ...	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.



**Summary of Inspections and General Sanitary Work.**

Nuisances brought forward from 1945	...	634
Nuisances reported to Committee during 1946		1879
Nuisances abated during 1946	... ..	1754
Number of letters sent	... ..	529
Number of Preliminary Notices	... ..	92
Number of Statutory Notices	... ..	60
Number of School Notices	... ..	25
Number of Parents' Notices	... ..	9
Number of Houses Disinfected	... ..	78
Number of Articles Disinfected	... ..	1013
Factories	... ..	70
Knackers Yard	... ..	40
Bakehouses	... ..	26
Dairies and Cowsheds	... ..	53
Picture Halls	... ..	7
Number of Visits re Infectious Disease	...	46

**Summary of Nuisances dealt with.**

Defective Water Supply and Cistern and W.C. Pedestals	... ..	133
Defective and Choked Drains	... ..	191
Defective Roofs	... ..	254
Defective Gutters, Gullies and Downspouts...		187
Irregular and Insanitary Yard Surfaces	...	14
Defective Brickwork to Yard and other Walls		40
Chimney Stacks, Smoky Chimneys	... ..	22
Absence of Refuse Receptacles	... ..	417

Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	66
Defective Doors, Door Frames, Windows and Window Frames	...	...	...	...	...	128
Insufficient Light and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	19
Insanitary Slop Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	35
Defective Grates and Washboilers	...	...	...	...	...	99
Defective Plasterwork	...	...	...	...	...	141
Defective Floors	...	...	...	...	...	50
Insanitary Back Passages	...	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	9
Insanitary Condition of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	7
Living Vans so placed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Insanitary Condition of Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	4
Insanitary Condition of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	30
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	49

**Factories and Workshops Act.**

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces,  
including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices
(1)	(2)	(3)
Factories (41)	24	1
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) (6)	44	3
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises) (2)	2	—
	—	—
	70	4
	—	—

## (2) Defects Found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
--------------	--------	-----------

**Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.**

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	3	3
					—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	4	4
					—	—

**Bakeries and Bakehouses.**

The number of bakeries and bakehouses in the district is 18. Periodical inspections are made. In a few instances it has been necessary to draw occupiers' attention to minor defects, and to the fact that limewashing was necessary. In each case these matters were given prompt attention.

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**

The following samples were submitted for analysis, many of which were obtained in conjunction with the County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. C. Almond:—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...	3
Peppermint Cordial	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soda Water	...	...	...	...	...	1
Herbal Beverage	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	3
						—
						14
						—

All the above samples were found to be genuine.

11 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. 5 were found to be unsatisfactory.

### **Smoke Observations.**

No action necessary.

### **Motor Ambulance Services.**

Two ambulances serve the three Urban Districts of Hindley, Ince and Abram. They are stationed at the Cross Street Garage, Hindley, and are available at any time, day or night.

The mileage covered by the two vehicles during the year was 12,395.1, and 1,238 cases were removed to or from the various hospitals:—

Manchester	...	...	...	...	50
Wigan	...	...	...	...	931
Leigh	...	...	...	...	164
Liverpool	...	...	...	...	15
Other cases	...	...	...	...	78
					—
					1238
					—

### **Rats and Mice Destruction Act.**

A Rodent Operative was appointed in August, 1944, to serve the three Urban Districts of Hindley, Abram, and Aspull. His services are now confined to the Hindley District. All cases of infestation are promptly dealt with. Poisons, gases and traps were employed to keep the pests in check. All man-holes in the district were pre-baited and where 'Takes' observed, poisons laid. Excellent results were obtained.

### **Kitchen Waste.**

A weekly collection of kitchen waste continues. Householders have been invited to conserve all vegetable waste and place same in the



140 receptacles placed at intervals throughout the district. The contents are conveyed to the Wigan Corporation Cleansing Depot for treatment. As there is a regular house-to-house collection made by Pig-Keepers outside of the Order, the quantity collected by the Local Authority does not reach a high standard. The amount collected for the twelve months totalled 137 tons 2 cwts.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk and other Officials and Members of the Staff, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOS. FRANCE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,  
Town Hall,  
Hindley,

7th January, 1947.

Particulars of Rainfall recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works during  
the year ending 31st December, 1946.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above Sea Level.  
Area of Hindley—2612.182 Statute Acres.

Month	No. of days on which rain fell.	Maximum fall in 24 hours in inches.	Total Monthly Rainfall in inches.
January	20	0.64	4.68
February	21	1.08	5.76
March	10	0.38	1.18
April	9	0.30	1.15
May	10	0.39	1.57
June	22	0.67	3.66
July	17	0.77	3.73
August	26	0.78	6.25
September	19	1.57	7.02
October	11	1.16	1.58
November	24	0.69	6.01
December	23	0.32	3.56
Totals for the year 1946	212		46.15

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1946:—  
12,165,001 tons.

Rainfall in Inches:—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
39.25	30.96	43.79	41.23	37.82	33.51	34.78	37.96	43.55	37.19	46.15

T. G. GRIME, A.M.I.M. & CY. E.

Engineer and Surveyor,  
Town Hall, Hindley.









